



Office of the Mayor

NEWS RELEASE

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City Holds 11th Annual Clean Your Files Day

Celebrate Earth Day and help make South Bend a Clean City by participating in Clean Your Files Day on Wednesday, April 18, 2007. You can catch up on spring cleaning and improve our environment by bringing your paper by the car load or box load to be recycled for free, at the College Football Hall of Fame parking lot, from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Volunteers will help you unload your paper into an on-site, curbside recycling truck.

If you have sensitive material that needs shredded, Central Files, Inc. will have locked secure document receptacles at the Hall of Fame. You may bring up to 100 pounds (approx. 2 ½ file boxes) to be shredded for free. Amounts over 100 pounds may be taken directly to Central Files, Inc., located at 922 South Main St., just south of the Main and Sample Street intersection in South Bend. A per pound fee of 11¢ will apply; for more information contact Central Files at 289-3000.

"We invite all members of the community – residents, businesses, and organizations – to 'Clean Your Files' and help make South Bend a Clean City. Each of us has a role to play in conservation," stated Mayor Luecke. "Recycling saves tons of paper from our landfill each year and makes the most of our natural resources."

Clean Your Files Day is a national event sponsored locally by the City of South Bend, Waste Management, Inc., Solid Waste Management District of St. Joseph County, and Central Files, Inc. It is open to the entire community, including households, churches, schools, businesses, and individuals.

The purpose of Clean Your Files Day is to increase recovery of office paper by purging old files, and promote workplace recycling by engaging businesses who don't already recycle office paper to implement a recycling program. This is the 11th year the City has participated in the event, as part of the Mayor's Clean City initiative.

Just think of the reasons to recycle:

- Each of us generates on average 4.4 pounds of waste per day per person. In a lifetime, the average American will throw away 600 times his or her adult weight in garbage. This means that each adult will leave a legacy of 90,000 lbs. of trash for his or her children.
- It takes 75,000 trees each week to produce the Sunday edition of the New York Times.
- Everyday Americans buy 62 million newspapers and throw out 44 million. That's the equivalent of dumping 500,000 trees into a landfill every week. If Americans recycled just one-tenth of their newspaper, we would save 2.5 million trees a year.
- The average American uses 580 pounds of paper each year. As a nation we consume 850 million trees annually.
- One tree can filter up to 60 pounds of pollutants from the air each year.
- Every year, Americans throw away enough office and writing paper to build a wall 12 feet high from New York to Los Angeles.
- One ton of recycled paper uses 64% less energy, 50% less water, 74% less air pollution, saves 17 trees and creates 5 times more jobs than 1 ton of paper products from virgin wood pulp.
- Recycling a four-foot stack of paper saves a 40-foot pine tree.

Information on implementing a recycling program in your home or work place will be available at the event. Waste Management, Inc. provides recycling services throughout St. Joseph and Elkhart Counties. Solid Waste Management District of St. Joseph County manages the county-wide curbside recycling program. Central Files, Inc. provides document and data management services for companies throughout northern Indiana and southern Michigan.